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Chair: Mr. Biang ..... (Gabon)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organization of work

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in document A/C.6/73/1, and to the note by the Secretariat entitled "Organization of work" (A/C.6/73/L.1).

2. Referring to agenda item 79, "Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission", he said it was his understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/112, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Mr. Molefe (South Africa), and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 87, "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction", said it was his understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/120, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Ms. Duncan Villalobos (Costa Rica) and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The Chair**, referring to item 111, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", said it was his understanding that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/123, the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by Mr. Perera (Sri Lanka), with a view to finalizing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. The working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chair** drew attention to the proposed timetable for the Committee's work, contained in paragraphs 4 to 6 of the note by the Secretariat (A/C.6/73/L.1), and to the revised overall work programme of the Committee, circulated to delegations before the opening of the session. In accordance with established practice, the proposed work programme would be applied with flexibility in the light of the progress made by the Committee, which would take action on draft resolutions as soon as they were ready for adoption. He encouraged sponsors and coordinators of draft resolutions to use the e-deleGATE portal to circulate texts of draft resolutions as early as possible and to submit them for processing in good time, preferably no later than one week after the completion of the debate of the Committee on each item or the completion of the work of the relevant working group, as the case might be. The taking of action on draft resolutions would always be announced, in advance, in the *Journal of the United Nations*. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chair** said that the Committee must allow sufficient time for preparation and consideration of the estimates of expenditure arising from draft resolutions. In that connection, all draft resolutions with financial implications must be submitted to the Fifth Committee by 30 October 2018, except for draft resolutions relating to agenda items scheduled to be considered after that date.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The Chair** stressed that the Committee was required to make full use of the conference resources and facilities made available to it, in particular by beginning its meetings on time. He took it that the Committee wished, as in the past, to follow the practice of the General Assembly in giving precedence on the list of speakers to representatives of regional groups or other groups of States; it was also understood that delegations that were aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of Member States should, where possible, focus additional interventions on points that had not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **The Chair** said that the Committee would continue to use the Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services (PaperSmart) meetings arrangement as part of its efforts to promote sustainability and cost-effectiveness. Delegations were therefore encouraged to rely on the electronic versions of official documents, as the traditional hard copy distribution of documents and statements had been discontinued. Delegations were asked to send electronic copies of their statements to the PaperSmart team for uploading to the PaperSmart portal and to provide 30 hard copies of their statements for the technical services. The PaperSmart portal would be

updated on a daily basis with information on forthcoming meetings.

Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/73/125)

15. **The Chair** drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/73/125), the report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 (A/68/37) and the oral report by the Chair of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism, contained in document A/C.6/72/SR.28.

16. **Mr. Nasimfar** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the Movement unequivocally condemned the crime of terrorism and rejected it in all its forms and manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly involved. Terrorist acts were a flagrant violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life. Such acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States and national, regional and international security, and had adverse consequences for economic and social development.

17. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation to achieve self-determination and national liberation, nor should it be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and any such association should not be used to justify measures such as profiling of suspects and intrusion on privacy. The brutalization of peoples under foreign occupation must be denounced as the gravest form of terrorism, and the use of State power to prevent peoples struggling against such occupation from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should be condemned.

18. States should honour their obligation under international law and international humanitarian law to combat terrorism by prosecuting or extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts and preventing them from organizing, instigating or financing terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territory. They should themselves refrain from encouraging activities within their territory directed towards the commission of such acts; allowing their territory to be used for the planning, training or financing of such acts; and supplying weapons which could be used for that purpose.

19. The Non-Aligned Movement rejected actions, measures and the use or threat of use of force directed against its members by another State under the pretext of combating terrorism or in pursuit of political aims, including by categorizing them directly or indirectly as sponsors of terrorism. It also firmly rejected the unilateral elaboration of lists accusing States of supporting terrorism, a practice that was inconsistent with international law and in itself constituted a form of psychological and political terrorism. States should also refuse to provide political, diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism and should ensure that the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts did not abuse refugee or any other legal status.

20. The Movement expressed grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and emphasized the need for States to address the issue, including through the fulfilment of their international obligations. In that connection, it called on the United Nations to facilitate capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States, upon request, in addressing the problem. All States that had not yet done so should consider becoming parties to the 13 international instruments on combating terrorism and should implement the provisions of all international, regional and bilateral instruments relating to terrorism to which they were parties. The Movement was also deeply concerned at the terrorist groups' misrepresentation of religions to justify terrorism and violent extremism. It was essential to address terrorism in an effective and comprehensive manner, including by engaging with community leaders and clerics of all denominations. The Movement strongly condemned the practice of hostage-taking for the purpose of demanding ransom or gaining political concessions and called on all States to cooperate actively in addressing the problem.

21. All States should respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in countering terrorism, in accordance with the rule of law and their obligations under international law. The Non-Aligned Movement called on the Security Council sanctions committees to further streamline their listing and delisting procedures by making the position of the Ombudsperson independent, transparent and permanent.

22. The Movement reiterated its call for a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism and to identify its root causes. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized and, to that end, States should cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. The Movement reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Member States' primary responsibility for its implementation, including through cooperation with the United Nations Office of

Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. The Office of Counter-Terrorism should help to bring greater coherence and effectiveness to United Nations counter-terrorism activities, in particular by addressing upon request Member States' capacity-building needs through assistance tailored to the specific realities of the States concerned, taking into account the centrality of national ownership. The Movement welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative to convene the first-ever United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in June 2018 and looked forward to similar meetings being convened, following consultation with Member States.

23. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC reaffirmed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved. More than ever, terrorism represented a serious threat to States, as it endangered social structures, regional stability and global security.

24. It was essential to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, which included prolonged unresolved conflicts, discrimination, dehumanization of victims, weakening of the rule of law, human rights violations and prolonged social, political, economic and cultural exclusion. Terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism could not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. It was therefore important to foster a culture of peace, condemn all forms of discrimination and promote respect for cultural, religious and political diversity. CELAC was deeply concerned about the rise in recruitment to terrorist groups and for that reason continued to attach importance to the promotion of inclusion with a view to dispelling stereotypes that associated terrorism with specific cultures, religious groups or ethnic groups and rejecting xenophobia and prejudice. Responses to the refugee crisis should reduce rather than increase the risk associated with violent extremism.

25. Measures to combat terrorism must always be in strict compliance with international law, as emphasized in General Assembly resolution 72/180 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Action taken outside that framework was illegal, unjustifiable and unacceptable. The resolution also underscored the right to privacy, which was a fundamental component of human dignity. CELAC was concerned that State surveillance and the illegal interception of communications, often from abroad, could affect the exercise of human rights. CELAC reaffirmed that a national criminal justice system based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, due process and fair trial guarantees was one of the best means of effectively combating terrorism and ensuring accountability. It continued to reject unilateral blacklists that accused States of supporting and sponsoring terrorism; they were incompatible with international law and should be discontinued.

26. The Latin American and Caribbean region itself had fallen victim to terrorist acts. The Community strongly condemned such attacks and the circumstances that had enabled those responsible to evade justice. All States should comply without delay with their obligations under international law and cooperate actively in order to bring perpetrators to justice and avoid impunity.

27. The Community recognized the steps taken by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities to arrive at fairer and clearer procedures for imposing sanctions. The role of the Ombudsperson had made the delisting procedure more equitable and transparent. In order to ensure due process, the position of Ombudsperson should be made independent and permanent. CELAC looked forward to the status report of the Secretary-General on progress in strengthening the capacity of the Office of the Ombudsperson. Ombudspersons should also be appointed for all the other Security Council sanctions regimes, in view of their role in strengthening the rule of law. Sanctions should not be an end in themselves; they were part of a broader strategy aimed at finding peaceful and political solutions.

28. The Community emphasized the need to safeguard humanitarian work and expressed concern at recent violations of international humanitarian law, including the use of drones. It was also concerned at the increasing number of letters sent to the Security Council pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations — most often after the fact — with a view to using force to combat terrorism. The use of force in a manner inconsistent with the Charter was illegal, unjustifiable and unacceptable. Consideration should be given to the possibility of convening an open and transparent debate on the topic.

29. There was a need to strengthen protection for the victims of terrorism, especially the most vulnerable. In particular, CELAC condemned sexual violence and the destruction of cultural property. It was also deeply concerned at the growing threat posed by foreign

terrorist fighters, a problem that affected all Member States, whether as countries of origin, transit or destination.

30. The international community should redouble its efforts to combat the financing of terrorism through such methods as judicial cooperation, legal assistance and information exchange. United Nations entities should continue to assist States in fulfilling their international obligations in that regard. CELAC recognized the role of the United Nations in providing technical assistance to combat terrorism and welcomed its counter-terrorism capacity-building initiatives.

31. Terrorism and transnational organized crime were not intrinsically or necessarily connected. The words "terrorism", "extremism", "radicalization" and "foreign fighters" continued to lack a clear legal definition. Achieving an international legal definition of those terms was a necessary precondition for further strengthening the rule of law both nationally and internationally. The international community could not afford to postpone indefinitely the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to overcome the obstacles to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on the subject. A clear legal regime would strengthen the rule of law in countering international terrorism.

32. CELAC remained committed to working for the prompt finalization of a comprehensive convention and of the convening of a high-level conference. It urged Member States to show flexibility in resolving all pending issues by the end of the current session of the General Assembly, particularly in the context of the relevant working group of the Sixth Committee.

33. **Mr. Jaiteh** (Gambia), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that the African States unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, wherever, by whomever and against whomever committed. It could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and was a flagrant violation of international law. Respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States was a non-derogable obligation. The African Group welcomed the convening of the first-ever United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and hoped that it would continue to be held on a biannual basis in conjunction with the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review, following consultation with Member States. It welcomed the outcome of the sixth review of the Strategy, addressing, in particular, issues relating to the return of foreign terrorist fighters and the exacerbation of extremist narratives. The Group reiterated its support for the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and looked forward to working with it and with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to ensure delivery of the necessary capacity-building to African States, upon their request.

34. The Group reiterated the importance of concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, while stressing that such a convention should not deny peoples their right to self-determination. The Group stood ready to work with other delegations to achieve a consensus and called upon all States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to decide on an international response to terrorism should be given serious consideration. The Group also reiterated its willingness to work with other delegations in continuing to refine the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It looked forward to the full implementation of that Strategy and urged the United Nations and donor countries to assist Member States in meeting their obligations in that regard.

35. Africa had long recognized the need for concrete measures to combat terrorism and remained committed to preventing and combating that scourge. The Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism had entered into force in 2002 and a plan of action for its implementation had been adopted the same year. The African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism established by the African Union, and the African Union Mission in Somalia, provided Member States with training and other forms of capacity-building to help them address terrorism-related issues and fulfil their regional and international obligations in that regard.

36. The financing of terrorism was a matter of great concern, particularly as one of its main sources was the payment of ransoms. The Group therefore urged Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of payment of ransoms to terrorist groups. The Group also called upon Member States to prevent perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts from abusing refugee status for the purposes of terrorism and to ascertain, before granting asylum, that the asylum seeker had not planned, facilitated or participated in terrorist acts. In addition, Member States should work together to develop and implement effective counter-narrative strategies, including through the comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives.

37. More attention must be given to further strengthening inter-State counter-terrorism cooperation. States should expand the range of assistance available for apprehending terrorists and investigating and preventing terrorist acts. The African Group accordingly welcomed initiatives to encourage cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in combating terrorism. It appreciated the Trans Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, developed by the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism and the United States Government's Africa Center for Strategic Studies; it also welcomed the establishment and operationalization in Djibouti of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Centre of Excellence in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa. Such initiatives were important ways of strengthening the capacity of African countries to adopt coordinated approaches to countering terrorism. Africa always endeavoured to comply with its international counter-terrorism obligations, but many African States were hamstrung by inadequate resources and capacities, and they appealed to the international community for assistance in that regard.

38. **Mr. Shaker** (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that terrorism was a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, in particular the right to life, and contradicted the practices and principles of Islam. Terrorist acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States as well as national, regional and international security. OIC reiterated its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States and reaffirmed that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group. It strongly condemned any attempt to link Islam with terrorism as such attempts played into the hands of terrorists and promoted religious hatred, discrimination and hostility against Muslims. It reiterated the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world and welcomed all international and regional initiatives and efforts to that end.

39. OIC reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. It was essential to follow a comprehensive approach by addressing the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, repression, festering international disputes and political marginalization and alienation. It was also necessary to combat all terrorist groups and organizations, wherever they existed, without any distinction. Member States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of terrorist acts; preventing the provision of funds, safe havens, assistance or weapons to terrorist groups and organizations; and refuting the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups and organizations. OIC reiterated the need to distinguish between terrorism and the exercise of the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, a distinction duly reflected in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51.

40. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a living document that should be updated and re-examined regularly and implemented in a balanced manner. Member States should cooperate in banning the payment of ransoms demanded by terrorist groups. It was important to enhance capacity-building to assist Member States in implementing their obligations under United Nations resolutions by increasing the resources for United Nations entities and departments entrusted with that task and by enhancing bilateral technical assistance and technology transfer.

41. OIC reaffirmed its commitment to negotiating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and underscored the need to make progress in that regard. It reiterated its previous proposal on the scope of the draft convention and its determination to make every effort to reach a consensus agreement by resolving the outstanding issues, including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, in particular the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation or colonial or alien domination, and the scope of the acts to be covered by the instrument. The Group once again called for the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to arrive at an agreed definition of terrorism. The Group welcomed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, launched in September 2018, and encouraged all Member States that had not yet done so to sign the Code and thus work towards the overall goal of eliminating international terrorism.

42. **Mr. Ke** (Cambodia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that terrorist practices were unjustifiable and threatened human welfare by disrupting everyday life and instilling fear and anxiety among populations; they also

negatively impacted global economic prosperity and undermined efforts to achieve sustainable development for the global community. ASEAN remained fully committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

43. To address the continuing threat of terrorism, a comprehensive approach was required, led by the United Nations. ASEAN accordingly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and endorsed the view expressed during the sixth biennial review in June 2018 that it was vital to strengthen the role and capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States in implementing the Strategy. In that context, the international community must avoid a one-size-fits-all approach and take into account country-specific differences. While the Strategy allowed for the necessary flexibility and encouraged the development of common approaches between the parties, implementation would be further improved through the promotion of information exchange among Member States and the sharing of technical assistance at all levels of implementation.

44. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation to Counter International Terrorism between ASEAN and Australia in March 2018 promoted regional security by ensuring close cooperation between the parties, including through enhanced technical and regulatory assistance on issues such as electronic evidence, financial intelligence and the countering of online radicalization. Member States were encouraged to engage in such closer cooperation to ensure a safe and prosperous world for all. ASEAN therefore welcomed the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in June 2018; it had offered an opportunity for the timely exchange of best practices and had enabled top-ranking counter-terrorism officials to form invaluable personal connections.

45. ASEAN recognized the important leadership provided by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism which, by enhancing coordination and coherence across the 38 Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities, ensured the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. ASEAN appreciated the efforts of the Task Force, as well as those of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and other relevant United Nations bodies to provide counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States and it encouraged all partners to redouble their efforts in that regard.

46. The fight against terrorism must be waged in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and in compliance with the principles of independence and sovereign equality of States and of non-interference in their domestic affairs. Terrorism could not and must not be associated with any race, religion, nationality or ethnicity. The States members of ASEAN would continue their efforts to achieve consensus on the outstanding issues impeding the achievement of an effective draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, so as to ensure a safe, peaceful and prosperous world for all.

47. **Ms. Van Rijssen** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the Union's comprehensive approach to preventing and combating terrorism respected the rule of law and international law, including human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. The European Union condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and believed that those responsible for terrorist acts must be held accountable.

48. The European Union and its member States were fully committed to combating the evolving terrorist threat in Europe and beyond. Terrorist groups were now attempting to radicalize and recruit young people, including those who were not marginalized, in all European Union countries. States therefore had to reconsider their integration models and work to address the needs of their peoples in a more systematic way, including by building community resilience through engagement at the local level. The cross-border dimension of the terrorist threat was evolving, as foreign terrorist fighters left conflict zones in Iraq, Syria and Libya to return to their home countries or relocate to other States. Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had responded to its loss of territory in Syria and Iraq by transforming itself into a covert network, and both ISIL and Al-Qaida remained active. There were also concerns about the emergence of new domestic terrorist threats, facilitated by the misuse of the Internet.

49. To address both international and domestic threats, States members of the European Union were strengthening law enforcement, improving information exchange, working to prevent the exploitation of the Internet for terrorist purposes and cutting off sources of terrorist financing. Legal and operational measures must also be taken to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters, collect and share information about such travel,

and adopt a balanced approach to prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration. The role of women and children returning from conflict zones, and that of victims of terrorism, should be given particular attention in order to avoid long-term security threats. The provision of assistance to victims of terrorism and their families was an integral part of European Union counter-terrorism efforts. At the international level, the European Union was working with countries in the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Western Balkans, and Central, South and South-East Asia to help build capacities, encourage mutual learning and find areas for cooperation, and had placed counter-terrorism and security experts in European Union delegations to support those efforts.

50. The European Union supported a whole-of-society approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and, in that connection, called for strengthened collaboration and cooperation among Governments, the private sector and civil society. By embracing human rights and the rule of law and working to eliminate corruption, Governments could create an enabling environment for local and national authorities and civil society to work together. The European Union continued to work closely with international partners such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the Financial Action Task Force in support of global efforts to combat terrorism.

51. The European Union and its member States fully supported the role of the United Nations in preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism and were committed to strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation. In that connection, they welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/284 concerning the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which had provided an opportunity to strengthen consensus and refocus international attention on emerging and evolving issues. In light of the consensus that terrorism must not be tolerated under any circumstances, confirmed by the adoption of the resolution, it was necessary to address all emerging threats, including those posed by the misuse of information and communication technologies and by the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters. The European Union and its member States were encouraged by the commitment of the United Nations system to work towards a system-wide approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. In that regard, it welcomed the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED, which should work in close cooperation and coordination, within their distinct mandates, in their efforts to align United Nations technical and capacity-building assistance with the needs identified by CTED.

52. The Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the United Nations as a whole, had embraced effective and efficient coordination within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and other international organizations and forums. The United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States had provided an opportunity to create linkages and foster a spirit of systematic cooperation. The impact of the future work of the United Nations system should be monitored and evaluated to ensure that a strong and efficient United Nations drove global efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent terrorism through a balanced approach to the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

53. The European Union fully supported the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and welcomed the recent appointment of a new Ombudsperson. The European Union remained committed to strengthening due process and ensuring clear and fair procedures under all sanctions regimes.

54. The European Union called on all States Members of the United Nations to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and ratify and implement all United Nations legal instruments on counter-terrorism. It remained committed to the elaboration and successful conclusion of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

55. The European Union reiterated its concern that the resolution on measures to eliminate international terrorism that was regularly considered by the Sixth Committee overlapped to a certain extent with the negotiations taking place in the General Assembly in plenary towards a resolution to review implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

56. **Ms. Neilson** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that collective efforts by the international community had resulted in real progress being made against ISIL in Iraq and Syria. However, returning or relocating foreign terrorist fighters posed a new kind of threat, and ISIL was working to build networks and increase its influence outside the Middle East, in some instances by exploiting State fragility and local grievances. The expanding influence of ISIL in South-East Asia gave cause for concern.

57. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to efforts to combat terrorism and were strong supporters of the role of the United Nations in that regard. The three delegations took note of the efforts made by the United Nations system since the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and continued to support the holistic and prevention-oriented approach set out in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. They welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), which had strengthened the measures available to counter the threat posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters, particularly its emphasis on capacity-building and on the need for States to take a whole-of-government approach and involve civil society in the implementation of rehabilitation and reintegration strategies. Building on the framework for cooperation established in that resolution, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, together with the United Kingdom and the United States of America, had undertaken to provide capacity-building for States in the areas of border security and the tracking and sharing of information concerning returning foreign terrorist fighters and local terrorist networks.

58. The three delegations also welcomed the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 72/284, in which Member States had reaffirmed the Strategy's four-pillar approach and stressed the importance of keeping the Strategy relevant and contemporary in the light of new threats and evolving trends. They welcomed the references in the resolution to the threat posed by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters, although they were disappointed that it did not contain stronger language in relation to the role of gender and the rights of women and children in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. It was also regrettable that the General Assembly had not recognized in the resolution the important role that civil society could play in building resilience in communities and advancing government efforts to protect human rights while countering terrorism.

59. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to working with other Member States to develop coordinated and effective measures to counter international terrorism. They encouraged all Member States to ratify and implement the various international instruments concerning international terrorism and to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. It was essential to transpose international obligations into domestic law and strengthen international cooperation among national law enforcement agencies. The implementation of States' obligations under Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014) and subsequent resolutions, would help Member States to effectively investigate and prosecute terrorist acts. Australia, Canada and New Zealand acknowledged the efforts of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED to provide targeted assistance to help States fulfil those obligations.

60. All actions taken to combat international terrorism must fully respect the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law. Moreover, counter-terrorism laws must not impede the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of armed conflict.

61. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to working closely with other Member States at the bilateral, regional and international levels to counter terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms, including violent extremist messaging, by sharing best practices and preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. States must cooperate in the development of effective, targeted measures to respond to the continuously evolving terrorist threat.

62. **Mr. Hattrem** (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said that terrorist and violent extremist groups continued to find new ways to carry out attacks, finance their activities, spread propaganda and recruit new fighters to their ranks. ISIL, Al-Qaida and home-grown terrorists remained a global security threat, as their ideologies were in conflict with the shared values of peace, security, human rights and the rule of law.

63. The Nordic countries were playing an important role in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. Although ISIL had suffered substantial territorial losses in Syria and Iraq, it still had the capacity to recruit members and the determination to push its agenda forward. Moreover, the underlying factors that had led to the group's rise had yet to be addressed. In that connection, inclusive political systems and solutions were crucial in order to prevent the resurgence of ISIL or the emergence of similar groups.

64. The global threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations required a global response, in which the United Nations must play a central role. The values of tolerance, pluralism and understanding should be embedded in societies, and all measures taken to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism must respect human rights and the rule of law. The sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had made it clear that the Strategy required States to ensure respect for human rights and international law, partner with civil society and local

communities, empower youth and promote gender equality. It was important to involve young people in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism, as they could play a significant role in preventing radicalization to violence.

65. It was also necessary to gain a better understanding of the issue of women and terrorism. Terrorist organizations used women as fighters, for recruitment and to perpetrate terrorist acts. However, women were also essential in efforts to counter violent extremism and their role in promoting counter-terrorism narratives in their communities should be supported. It was also important to promote and protect women's enjoyment of human rights and to include women's voices, experiences and leadership in policy development.

66. Terrorism could not be tackled through military and security means alone; the approach should involve the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The root causes and upstream factors of violent extremism must be addressed and responses to them must be based on the rule of law. In order for the United Nations to respond effectively to the current challenges, it must streamline and coordinate core activities in areas such as conflict prevention, development and education.

67. The Nordic countries were members of the Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism, which was seeking to promote the institutionalization of the prevention of violent extremism throughout the United Nations system. They appreciated the fact that the Office of Counter-Terrorism had made the prevention of violent extremism an integral part of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. They also welcomed the development and adoption of action plans on preventing violent extremism by a number of Member States and regional organizations, with the support of the United Nations. The Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism continued to serve as a key guiding document for the United Nations and its Member States.

68. The Nordic countries attached great importance to respect for human rights and international law in counter-terrorism efforts. In that regard, the Security Council had repeatedly underscored not only that States had a duty to fulfil their international obligations but that failure to do so increased radicalization to violence and fostered a sense of impunity. Similarly, in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had placed human rights at the centre of the effort to combat terrorism and emphasized that counter-terrorism measures must comply with international human rights law.

69. An agreed international definition of terrorism would enhance the international community's ability to combat terrorism while upholding international law, and would facilitate stronger international cooperation on counter-terrorism. The Nordic countries therefore supported the work towards the elaboration of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

70. **Mr. Al-Jufairi** (Qatar) said that, in recent times, concerted international action had eliminated most of the military and material capacities of terrorist groups, put an end to their cross-border reach and impaired their ability to recruit. Those successes had been possible only because the international community had realized the scale of the threat. It must now improve its coordination with a view to definitively eradicating terrorism. That goal could be achieved only by complying with the relevant international conventions, implementing the resolutions adopted by the international community, finding solutions to conflicts, bringing an end to foreign occupation, recognizing the right of peoples to self-determination, curbing State terrorism, and providing technical and capacity-building assistance to States confronting terrorism. Human rights violations and the absence of the rule of law could create conditions conducive to terrorism, especially when the international response was belated or hesitant. Counter-terrorism measures must be consistent with international law, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, refugee law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Terrorism must not be used as a pretext to harm other States or to manufacture crises for political gain. His delegation wished to commend the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, CTED and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

71. A comprehensive convention on international terrorism was needed more than ever, and Qatar would continue to be an active participant in negotiations towards its elaboration. Such an instrument must provide a clear definition of terrorism, which could not be linked to any particular ethnic group or religion or culture. A distinction must be made between terrorism and legitimate self-defence by peoples subjected to foreign domination.

72. The Qatari authorities had continued to cooperate with the United Nations counter-terrorism entities and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Qatar was a member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and had concluded numerous bilateral agreements on counter-terrorism under the aegis of the United Nations. It was at the forefront of regional efforts to combat the financing of terrorism and was updating its legislation in line with international counter-terrorism efforts.

73. **Mr. Alavi** (Liechtenstein) said that his country condemned all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation, wherever and by whomever perpetrated, and remained committed to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the United Nations. It had ratified all United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and continued to take all necessary measures, in accordance with the rule of law and applicable human rights standards, to prevent the abuse of its financial institutions for terrorist purposes.

74. Member States, and the Organization itself, must uphold human rights when undertaking measures to combat terrorist financing. Respect for human rights, including due process rights, was not only an obligation under international law but also an essential element of effective counter-terrorism action. Liechtenstein therefore highly valued the work of the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and welcomed the appointment of the new Ombudsperson. His delegation continued to call for the mandate of the Ombudsperson to be extended to other sanctions regimes and for the necessary resources and support to be provided to the Office.

75. Although they were often no more than an afterthought, measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law must be the basis for the fight against terrorism. Governments actively involved in that fight should beware of contributing to outcomes opposed to the values they were seeking to uphold. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/284 concerning the sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a positive step that should be followed by efforts to achieve a more balanced approach to the implementation of the Strategy. In particular, much more could be done to prevent violent extremism. One of the greatest challenges in that regard was to effectively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. It was important for young people to be at the centre of efforts to implement the Strategy, since they tended to be the most vulnerable to radicalization.

76. The Sixth Committee had made important contributions to collective counter-terrorism efforts, in particular by drafting numerous international conventions on the matter. Following those efforts, the Committee should streamline its work accordingly and avoid a duplication of its discussions in various forums. His delegation therefore reiterated its call for the Committee to, at the very least, take up the suggestion by the European Union to discuss the agenda item only every two years.

77. **Mr. Horna** (Peru) said that his country, which had suffered from the violence unleashed by terrorist groups for more than two decades, strongly condemned and rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stood in solidarity with all victims. His Government supported all multilateral action, including through the General Assembly and the Security Council, to address the scourge of terrorism in a systematic and balanced manner, in compliance with international law. It was essential to gain a better understanding of the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime and to take those connections into account in counter-terrorism efforts.

78. ISIL, which constituted the main terrorist threat at the current time, was transforming itself into a covert global organization. While it had suffered military losses, it maintained a significant presence in Iraq and Syria, and its affiliates were active in other parts of the Middle East, and also in Africa and Asia. Member States must take steps to prevent the attempts of ISIL to maintain its global influence by using the Internet, in particular social media, to recruit, mobilize and direct followers. They must also address the serious threat posed by returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters by adopting effective prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration policies that respected international law and human rights. In that connection, it was important to consider how to prevent prisons from becoming breeding grounds for radicalization and terrorist recruitment, and how to address the threat posed by former fighters released from prison. The sharing of best practices would be useful in that regard. Steps must also be taken to prevent the financing of terrorism and, in particular, of ISIL. Efforts to strengthen financial intelligence systems should be complemented by measures to trace cash, since ISIL most often moved its resources in that form. His Government, convinced that crimes committed by terrorists must not go unpunished, supported all initiatives aimed at improving the collection of evidence in conflict zones and digital evidence.

79. While the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy represented a step forward, the moral authority of the United Nations was being undermined by the failure to reach an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The conclusion of a convention would be more than a symbolic achievement of an agreed definition of terrorism. By enshrining the principle of "extradite or prosecute", the convention would strengthen accountability and the fight against impunity, as there would be no safe haven

for terrorists. The convention would also help to harmonize domestic and international legislation and prevent States from using counter-terrorism laws against groups, persons and activities in ways that violated human rights and due process. Furthermore, it would ensure that there was appropriate interaction between the two separate regimes of international counter-terrorism law and international humanitarian law. Member States should therefore resolve all outstanding issues preventing the elaboration of a convention, while also duly implementing the 19 existing international counter-terrorism instruments.

80. **Mr. Gonzalez** (Colombia) said that his country condemned and rejected terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It was unacceptable and unjustifiable in any circumstances, and could not and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group. In order for global counter-terrorism efforts to achieve the desired results, they must be in strict compliance with international law.

81. In its resolution 72/284, the General Assembly had stressed the need to implement measures to prevent violent extremism. It was also important to address issues related to foreign terrorist fighters, combat the financing of terrorism and prevent terrorist groups from obtaining weapons of mass destruction. His Government was developing a national strategy to counter violent extremism, in line with the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Work undertaken thus far in that regard had revealed a need to avoid limiting the scope of research to religious radicalization; other types of radicalization must also be taken into account.

82. The current global context of international conflict, migrant crises and the increasing power of transnational criminal organizations was making it easy for terrorist organizations to diversify their methods, logistical corridors and financing sources. His delegation called on Member States and international and regional organizations to study in depth the linkages between transnational organized crime and terrorism, which were referred to only generally in resolution 72/284, as terrorist and transnational criminal organizations were currently able to take advantage of areas that were not being given due attention. It was also necessary to strengthen States' capacities to prevent terrorism through investigation and prosecution; improve international cooperation; and provide States with the technical assistance they needed.

83. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism against peoples seeking the right to self-determination. Pakistan had been a victim of terrorism for decades, but its resolve to defeat terrorism had not been shaken. Thanks to her Government's multi-pronged approach, terrorist groups had been dismantled and dislodged from the national territory. Since the threat was now primarily based, and supported from, outside the country, her Government was implementing a comprehensive border management system along the western border of Pakistan with a view to preventing the cross-border movement of militants and illicit trafficking in arms and drugs, while at the same time facilitating legitimate cross-border trade.

84. The hard-earned stability enjoyed by Pakistan had been obtained through a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach to countering terrorism. Recognizing that terrorist groups could not be defeated by military means alone, her Government had implemented a national action plan that included work with communities to develop counter-narratives, a focus on youth, the enhancement of regional cooperation, and compliance with international obligations. Her Government stood ready to share the valuable experience that it had gained with other Member States.

85. The United Nations was uniquely positioned to build consensus among Member States in dealing with the diverse challenges of terrorism. The reform of the counter-terrorism architecture had already yielded positive results. The adoption of Security Council resolution 2395 (2017) had given the Counter-Terrorism Committee and CTED a robust mandate and established direct links between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED. All of those measures had strengthened the ability of the United Nations to assess the implementation of United Nations resolutions by Member States. However, a robust capacity-building mechanism to help States fulfil their obligations was still lacking. To resolve that problem, two issues needed to be addressed, namely the increasingly donor-driven nature of United Nations capacity-building assistance and the lack of a steady financing mechanism for the Counter-Terrorism Committee. It was also important to address the root causes of terrorism, including political injustice, economic and social marginalization, festering disputes and unresolved conflicts. Chronic instability resulting from conflicts and military interventions had created fertile ground for terrorist groups to recruit members and spread their ideology; moreover, terrorists and their supporters were able to find safe havens in ungoverned conflict areas. While the United Nations was focused on improving technical measures, it must be borne in mind that extremist ideologies would never be defeated unless the underlying geopolitical dynamics were addressed.

86. Pakistan was in favour of a consensus-based, comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which must be consistent with international humanitarian law and clearly differentiate between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle for self-determination of people living under foreign occupation. Malicious attempts to manipulate the international consensus against terrorism to justify the suppression of people struggling for the right of self-determination must never be permitted to succeed.

87. The General Assembly was the primary entity responsible for establishing counter-terrorism norms. However, its role was being undermined by the proliferation of informal forums established to launch new ideas and themes that were then brought before the General Assembly for rubber-stamping. Her delegation hoped that the annual resolution on the elimination of international terrorism would provide clarity on that issue. The resolution had received only technical updates at the past three sessions, but her delegation hoped that a number of substantive changes would be made at the current session.

88. **Mr.** Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its origins or purposes. It was a proactive and effective participant in bilateral and international efforts to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and combat terrorism and the financing of terrorism. The Sudan had ratified all international conventions on international terrorism, in addition to African and Arab regional conventions on the subject. The Sudan played an active part in the counter-terrorism strategies of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

89. It was essential to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a comprehensive, sustainable and coordinated manner. Primary responsibility for that process lay with Member States. The United Nations also had an important role to play in coordinating the provision of assistance to Member States at their request with a view to implementing the Strategy. The Sudan had taken several successful measures, including adopting legislation, tackling the conditions conducive to terrorism, building capacity and ensuring respect for human rights while combating terrorism.

90. The Sudan had shared with the counter-terrorism entities of the United Nations a draft national counter-terrorism strategy that focused on conflict prevention; good governance, human rights and the rule of law; engaging with local communities; empowering young people; fostering gender equality; empowering women; and promoting education, capacity-building, employment and strategic communications, notably through the Internet and social media. In order to tackle the conditions conducive to terrorism, his Government would work to promote security and social justice, alleviate poverty, strengthen social cohesion and promote the values of moderation and dialogue. The Sudan would also build its capacity to combat cybercrime, money-laundering and cross-border crime.

91. Although the resolution concerning the sixth review of the Strategy had been adopted by consensus, his delegation was concerned that certain States had sought to broaden the definition of violent extremism by introducing new paragraphs that would weaken State sovereignty and national ownership. The proposed new language hinted more or less explicitly at intervention in internal affairs; such language would sow dissension at a time when the international community needed to be united and resolute. As shown by paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/72/840), terrorism was being confused with violent extremism. It was essential to avoid and resolve such confusion between the two concepts. The international community must recognize the problem and discuss ways to address it. Moreover, some actors had focused disproportionately on one pillar of the Strategy, thereby undermining transparency and the added value of the other pillars. The international community should take a comprehensive and balanced approach, encompassing cultural and social dimensions as well as purely military solutions. The General Assembly was the organ best placed to face that challenge.

92. Countering terrorism and violent extremism entailed fighting poverty, achieving balanced and sustainable development, and strengthening dialogue between the North and the South. Developing States would need technical assistance in order to fulfil their functions on the basis of cooperation and mutual respect.

93. **Mr. Al Arsan** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that much of the information provided by Member States in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate terrorism (A/73/125) focused on actions taken to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from returning to their home countries, countries of residence or third States. In the course of the sixth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, his delegation had proposed several paragraphs drawing attention to the need to determine how the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters had emerged and to pinpoint the responsibility of certain members of the

international community, which had either colluded or failed to act. However, certain delegations had persistently rejected those proposals. The current threat could have been averted if Governments had activated early warning mechanisms and exchanged information, and if the international community had assumed its responsibility from the outset or heeded his Government's warnings that certain States were facilitating the flow of fighters into Syria and Iraq.

94. Because of the diverging views of Member States, the consensus underpinning the completion of the sixth biennial review had been based on politicized fudges and fixes. In particular, there had been considerable disagreement regarding the issue of violent extremism. Numerous delegations, supported by the Secretariat, had persistently sought to remove the issue from its agreed context, namely that the term should refer to violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In any event, there was no clear dividing line between religious or political extremism, on the one hand, and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, on the other. Thousands of foreign terrorist fighters had been identified by the secret services of their home countries as dangerous extremists but somehow had not been classified as violent. However, their supposedly non-violent extremism had been one of the drivers of their radicalization and recruitment. They had left for Syria and Iraq in plain sight, and many would subsequently return to carry out attacks in their home countries, countries of residence or third States.

95. In the course of the review, many of the proposals made by delegations had drawn on language from the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council. The problem was not that those resolutions were flawed but that certain Member States lacked the political will to implement them or to use the sanctions mechanisms proactively, implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy or formulate a clear legal definition of terrorism. In that connection, he commended the efforts made by the delegation of Kazakhstan to secure the successful adoption of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism.

96. Practical proposals had been made concerning ways to tackle the use of the media, the Internet, social media and positions of religious authority to propagate terrorist ideology. Regrettably, certain delegations had opposed all of those proposals and continued to stand in the way of consensus regarding any international convention or mechanism that would monitor the use of the Internet for extremist discourse and incitement, the recruitment of terrorists and the financing of terrorism. Those delegations had invoked the principle of freedom of expression, but they were in fact motivated by petty political goals and economic interests, particularly their hegemony over global technology markets.

97. The structure and working methods of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre should be reformed with a view to ensuring transparency, inclusivity and good governance. Until those concerns had been addressed, the Syrian Arab Republic would continue to refrain from working with the Centre and would oppose any proposal to fund it from the regular budget of the United Nations.

98. His delegation appreciated the work of the Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the outcomes of the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 and 29 June 2018. The event had laid the foundations for a new approach to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. He hoped that the methods and programme for the next conference would be developed so as to ensure that experiences and best practices could be exchanged in an interactive manner. The Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a global network of counter-terrorism coordinators was an interesting one, but a thorough study would be required in order to ascertain which parties would be part of the network, what was meant by the exchange of sensitive information, what guarantees of confidentiality and security could be provided, and whether the network would be able to harmonize standards with regard to Member States' respect for the counter-terrorism resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

99. His country had extensive experience of combating armed terrorist groups and had compiled a database on the topic. That experience had come at a cost: innocent lives had been lost, the country's antiquities were being sold around the world, and national infrastructure had been damaged. Moreover, the Syrian Arab Republic remained under an unjust economic embargo imposed by those very States that had allowed thousands of foreign terrorist fighters to travel there and join ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Nusrah Front and associated groups. The Syrian Arab Republic was a founding member of the United Nations and was committed to implementing its resolutions on counter-terrorism. However, its cooperation and intelligence-sharing would be contingent on respect for its national sovereignty and independence.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/C.6/73/SR.2

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Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 3 October 2018, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Kremžar (Vice-Chair) ..... (Slovenia)
later: Mr. Luna (Vice-Chair) ..... (Brazil)

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In the absence of Mr. Biang (Gabon), Ms. Kremžar (Slovenia), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 111: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/73/125)

1. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives) said that Islam was a religion of mercy which taught that killing one person was equivalent to killing all of humankind and saving one life was equivalent to saving the whole world. The Maldives therefore condemned all acts of terrorism, particularly those committed in the name of Islam, and strongly believed that the international community needed to take a cooperative and coordinated approach to combating terrorism in all its forms.

2. Despite its small size, his country was doing its part by taking an array of measures to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The Prevention of Terrorism Act of 2015 and the Prevention of Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Act of 2014 had been enacted to help law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial authorities deal with foreign terrorist fighters and those providing financial or material support to terrorist or violent extremist organizations. The National Counter Terrorism Centre had been established in 2016 to provide a common platform to facilitate information and intelligence sharing and to synchronize inter-agency activities to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism adopted in 2017 was aimed at tackling the phenomenon of violent extremism through a whole-of-society approach and included programmes that were designed to build resistance to radicalizing ideologies at the community level and to empower women and young people. Participating in or providing support for terrorist activities overseas by Maldivians had been made a criminal offence in his country. The Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System had been introduced at the main international airport and seaport to collect intelligence, question travellers suspected of seeking to take part in conflicts abroad and prevent them from departing or entering the country.

3. His Government believed that its counter-terrorism strategy had to be part of a global, comprehensive approach and greatly appreciated the assistance of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with capacity-building, raising awareness and formulating new policies and strategies.

4. **Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore) said that terrorist acts ran counter to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, undermined global peace, security, prosperity and the rule of law, and could not be justified under any circumstances.

5. Singapore had adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy that called for the continuous enhancement of the country's terrorism response capabilities. In recognition of the vital role that the community played in combating terrorism, his Government had strengthened its partnership with religious organizations and community leaders to counter the spread of extremist ideologies. The strategy was supported by a robust legal and regulatory regime and included a framework for combating money-laundering and terrorism financing that had been deemed strong by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). New laws had been enacted to grant security forces the powers necessary to address the threat of terrorism as effectively as possible.

6. Singapore supported the call for a strong, sustained and coordinated global response to terrorism. It was a party to 14 international counter-terrorism agreements and was committed to implementing them. He commended Kazakhstan for having initiated consultations on the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, which Singapore had signed recently. As the Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2018, Singapore had identified counter-terrorism as one of its priorities and would soon be hosting the South-East Asia Counter-Terrorism Symposium, which aimed to foster greater counter-terrorism cooperation in the region.

7. The United Nations had an important role to play in coordinating the global response to terrorism. His delegation supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/284 following the sixth review of the Strategy. Singapore commended the Secretary-General for having convened the first United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in 2018 and acknowledged the important role that the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and other United Nations bodies played in counter-terrorism efforts. He suggested that a representative of the Office of Counter-Terrorism be invited to take part in the Committee's discussions.

8. The working group established in 2017 with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism had been making slow progress. His delegation looked forward to participating

in discussions concerning draft article 3 [18], which pertained to the relationship between the draft convention and other legal regimes, and would work with other delegations to try to reach agreement on outstanding issues.

9. **Mr. Luna** (Brazil), recalling that resolution 72/284 had been adopted by the General Assembly, the most inclusive and democratic body of the United Nations, under agenda item 118 entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", and was the culmination of an intense six-week-long consultation process aimed at ensuring that the Strategy reflected the collective voice of the Member States to eliminate terrorism, said that the Committee should engage in further reflection on how the current agenda item could be more efficiently considered so as to avoid overlap and duplication with the policy discussions held biennially at plenary level to review the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. His delegation considered that, as the Committee was dedicated to legal issues, the best alternative to rationalize its discussions would be to focus its debates on the outstanding legal questions in the realm of counter-terrorism.

10. The current absence of a universally agreed definition of international terrorism was detrimental to the common goal of eliminating it. His delegation underscored the importance of overcoming the stalemate in negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as a matter of urgency and of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, to provide the strong political push needed to conclude the draft convention. The Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 could be reconvened to carry out preparatory work prior to the convening of such a conference.

11. It was important to have a proper understanding of the linkages between terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism. Although those three phenomena could be linked in specific circumstances, as in the recruitment efforts of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), they were not automatically related. Racism, xenophobia and homophobia, for example, could lead to forms of violent extremism that had nothing to do with terrorism. The conflation of the concepts of violent extremism and terrorism could lead to the justification of an overly broad application of counter-terrorism measures, including against forms of conduct that should not qualify as terrorist acts. Nor did terrorism have universal or intrinsic linkages with transnational organized crime. While terrorism represented a threat to international peace and security, transnational organized crime was a matter of public security.

12. While States were united in their desire to eliminate international terrorism, the questionable legality of some counter-terrorism measures made them divisive. Counter-terrorism efforts would undermine the values they sought to uphold and foster extremism conducive to terrorism if they were not consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law. In that connection, measures to combat the use of new communications technologies by terrorist organizations must not infringe on the rights to freedom of expression and privacy. The surveillance or interception of communications by States, including extraterritorially, could have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

13. Some States had been attempting to depart from the current collective security system by embracing actions that seemed to reflect pre-Charter understandings of the use of force, including attempts to reinterpret the law regarding the content and scope of self-defence, especially its applicability in relation to non-state actors. Some States sometimes added the criteria of the unwillingness or inability of the territorial State to act as a condition for such action. Brazil disagreed with that approach for many reasons.

14. First, a general principle of law held that exceptions to rules must be interpreted restrictively. Accordingly, although Article 51 of the Charter recognized the inherent right of States to self-defence, it was an exception to Article 2, paragraph 4, which referred specifically to "States". Since Article 51 must be interpreted in light of Article 2, paragraph 4, self-defence should be interpreted as a response to an armed attack undertaken by or attributable to a State.

15. Second, the International Court of Justice had also made clear in its judgment in the case concerning *Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America)* that the use of force against a non-State actor could not be justified as an exercise of the right of self-defence, unless the territorial State had sent or had had substantial involvement in the acts of the non-State actor. In its advisory opinion concerning *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, the Court had reaffirmed that Article 51 of the Charter recognized the existence of an inherent right of self-defence in the case of an armed attack by one State against another State.

16. Third, it was also clear from the *travaux préparatoires* of the Charter and the post-war context in which it had been drafted that its authors could not have intended for the right of self-defence to be used to

justify the use of force in conflicts other than those among States.

17. Fourth, although the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties allowed for the consideration of subsequent agreements and subsequent practice in relation to the interpretation of treaties, the threshold for a tacit agreement between the 193 States parties to the Charter on the reinterpretation of Article 51 had not been met and the State practice being invoked by those seeking such reinterpretation was erratic and ambiguous. Indeed, a large number of States, including the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, had cautioned against such reinterpretation and had called for an open and transparent debate on the issue. All countries had a stake in the issue of the legality of the use of force.

18. **Ms. Argüello González** (Nicaragua) said that her country was deeply concerned about the wars being waged under the banner of "war on terrorism", causing deaths, violations of the human rights of millions of people and mass refugee flows. Nicaragua condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the light of the growing number of terrorist attacks perpetrated against peoples and Governments and wished to express its solidarity with all victims of such attacks.

19. Condemnations of terrorism must go beyond words and be reflected in concrete measures to prosecute, bring to justice and extradite those committing terrorist acts; above all, such acts must not to be supported or financed through the application of double standards, whereby groups whose intention was to overthrow legitimately constituted Governments were viewed as "moderate armed opposition".

20. Nicaragua reaffirmed its readiness to make every effort to help conclude a convention on terrorism and called on all Member States to demonstrate flexibility towards that end. Nicaragua also remained firmly committed to the integrated implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and had therefore participated actively in the sixth biennial review of the Strategy. Nicaragua supported the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and had also taken part in the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

21. Terrorists were sowing the seeds of insecurity and destruction and provoking humanitarian crises with unimaginable consequences. For that reason, the United Nations must work to promote respect, peace, sovereign security, justice and human solidarity. Her Government would continue to serve the ideals of the motherland and of liberty and would make every effort to promote stability, security and peace as preconditions for development.

22. **Ms. Onanga** (Gabon) said that terrorism was not only a threat to human life and dignity but a negation of civilization. No cause, ideology or religion could justify the deadly attacks carried out against law enforcement authorities and civilian populations around the world. Her Government condemned such heinous acts, whose perpetrators showed no respect for human life and values, and expressed its solidarity with the Governments and peoples affected by them. However, terrorism should not be associated with any religion, culture or ethnic group.

23. In adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had demonstrated their commitment to combating international terrorism in a holistic manner. That momentum had led to the consolidation of the legal framework and tools used to combat terrorism with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly following the sixth review of the Strategy. Through the review, Member States were able to expand the counter-terrorism architecture at the international and regional levels by placing counter-terrorism in the context of conflict prevention and sustainable development, taking into account the root causes of terrorism and raising awareness of the plight of victims of terrorism.

24. Ever since the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001), the United Nations had duly provided the Member States with the necessary assistance to enable them to combat terrorism effectively. Gabon supported Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2354 (2017), which underscored the urgent need for cooperation and information sharing among States.

25. While all countries faced the threat of terrorism and new technologies, they did not all have equal capacity to combat the phenomenon, owing to the high costs involved and the sophisticated methods employed by terrorists. Her delegation therefore called for capacity-building assistance for developing countries, and those on the African continent in particular, that took account of their specific needs and the threats they faced. Strengthened cooperation was therefore needed with regard to the exchange of information among the competent national authorities and between government agencies and private sector entities, such as information technology and shipping companies and airlines.

26. Gabon believed that combating terrorism was a collective responsibility and that actions in that regard must be consistent with commitments to respect human

rights and to combat poverty. That was why it had ratified almost all the United Nations instruments that formed the legal framework for international efforts to combat terrorism. Her delegation called on members of the international community to overcome the differences that stood in the way of finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

27. **Mr. Korbieh** (Ghana) said that terrorist groups had dramatically changed their modus operandi, transforming terrorism into a growing security threat of alarming proportions that transcended borders and could only be addressed through concerted national and international measures. Greater cooperation was needed at all levels with regard to intelligence sharing, early warning systems, capacity-building and technology transfer. In that connection, Ghana called for enhanced international cooperation, coordination and technical assistance to enable States to fully and effectively implement Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017), which focused on foreign terrorist fighters, including the timely sharing of information and tailored assistance, to help them address the recruitment, operationalization, return and reintegration of foreign terrorist fighters. The importance of international cooperation to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters had also been underlined in General Assembly resolution 72/284, reflecting the desire of the international community to present a united front in the fight against terrorism and its commitment to the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars.

28. Ghana was committed to combating money-laundering and terrorist financing and had passed the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Anti-Money-Laundering Act in 2014, bringing its laws in line with international standards, clarifying the authority of the High Court to freeze terrorist assets and granting the Financial Intelligence Centre greater authority to request information on currency transaction reports. The country's financial intelligence unit had also been admitted into the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units in 2014.

29. In 2016, Ghana had become the first member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to conduct a national risk assessment on money-laundering and terrorist financing, in line with FATF recommendations, and also the first State member of ECOWAS to undergo the second round of mutual evaluation conducted by the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa. Ghana was implementing an action plan to rectify the strategic deficiencies relating to terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction identified in the Action Group's report. Ghana had also taken steps to criminalize terrorism, the financing of terrorist activities and the provision of support for terrorist acts

30. **Mr. Yedla** (India) said that the scourge of terrorism was a global problem, as terrorists had developed the means to choose the place and time of their strikes to cause the maximum possible damage and the death of innocent people. India condemned all acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, whatever their motivation.

31. The South Asia region had been deeply affected by the activities of Al-Qaida, the Taliban, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and other terrorist organizations, which were increasingly linked by terrorist financing networks, social media platforms on which they disseminated their ideologies of hatred, and the arms trade. Some countries were even sponsoring those organizations and providing them safe haven to fulfil their political agendas. From a legal standpoint, the only effective way to disrupt those linkages and networks was through concerted international cooperation, including through extradition, prosecution, information exchange and capacity-building. Although discussions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had had little impact on the ground and Security Council sanctions committees had become selective tools owing to their opaque working methods and politicized decision-making, the United Nations was nonetheless best placed to lead that effort.

32. India was a party to all the United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and firmly believed that a comprehensive convention on international terrorism would ensure accountability and justice and enhance dialogue and understanding among the Member States. The inability of States to agree on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism was one of the most significant lacunae in the international legislative framework for combating terrorism. The early finalization and adoption of the draft convention would reflect the commitment of States to cooperate in the fight against terrorism.

33. His Government's own counter-terrorism efforts included exchanging information, building capacity for effective border control, preventing the misuse of communications technologies, monitoring illicit financial flows and cooperating in investigations and judicial processes. India welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and would support its work with a voluntary contribution of US$ 550,000. It also welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General to convene the United Nations High-level Conference of

Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

34. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba), reiterating her country's unwavering resolve to combat terrorism and its condemnation of terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, irrespective of their motivation, including in cases in which States were directly or indirectly involved, said that Cuba likewise condemned any action to encourage, support, finance or conceal any terrorist act, method or practice. Terrorism could not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and must be combated through a holistic approach, combining direct confrontation, prevention and measures to eradicate its root causes. Cuba reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and emphasized that the responsibility for its transparent implementation lay with the Member States. Cuba also supported the multilateral efforts aimed at consolidating the central role of the General Assembly in the implementation of the Strategy.

35. The harmful practices whereby certain States financed, supported or promoted subversive acts aimed at "regime change" and disseminated messages of intolerance and enmity towards other peoples, cultures and political systems with the help of modern information and communications technologies were violations of the Charter and international law. Cuba reiterated its condemnation of unilateral acts by certain States that took it upon themselves to certify conduct and to establish politically motivated lists, in violation of international law. Such acts undermined the central authority of the General Assembly in combating terrorism. The international community could not accept that, under the banner of a so-called fight against terrorism, certain States carried out acts of aggression, directly or indirectly, against sovereign peoples and committed flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Cuba also firmly rejected the manipulation of the sensitive issue of international terrorism as an instrument for use against any country.

36. Cuba was a party to 18 international conventions on terrorism, and it reaffirmed its determination to continue working to strengthen the central role of the United Nations in the adoption of measures and the elaboration of a broad legal framework to fight that scourge. It reiterated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would fill in existing legal lacunae, and it was in favour of convening an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to provide an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

37. In defence of its independence, sovereignty and dignity, Cuba had for decades suffered the consequences of terrorist acts that had left 3,478 people dead and 2,099 disabled. The terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who had masterminded the explosion in mid-flight of a Cubana de Aviación airliner 42 years earlier, resulting in the death of 73 persons, had remained at large, with the shameful complicity of the Government of the United States, until his death. The Cuban people were outraged that the victims of that horrendous crime would never see justice served.

38. Cuba had never participated in the organization, financing or commission of an act of terrorism against any country, and it had never assisted and would never assist acts of international terrorism. Cuban territory had never been used and never would be used to organize, finance or commit terrorist acts against any country. Her Government reiterated its support for multilateral and bilateral cooperation to counter international terrorism and was determined to work with all countries on preventing and suppressing terrorist acts, wherever they were committed.

39. **Ms. Schneider Rittener** (Switzerland) said that her Government strongly condemned the abhorrent and unacceptable acts carried out by terrorists and wished to express its solidarity with the victims and their families. Recognizing that the response to terrorism must be as flexible and multifaceted as the threat itself, Switzerland had been working intensively to strengthen its laws over the years to enable it to combat terrorists as effectively as possible, and had adopted its first national action plan to prevent violent extremism.

40. As always, respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law was the only means of combating terrorism in a sustainable and effective manner. Her Government therefore supported all international initiatives aimed at affirming and strengthening respect for international law and human rights. In particular, Switzerland had contributed to the preparation and dissemination of the document entitled "Guidance to States on human rights-compliant responses to the threat posed by foreign fighters", drafted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the request of the Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which could serve as a model for the development of other best practice guides to promote and protect human rights and apply the principles of the rule of law.

Switzerland was also supporting a project of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to combat terrorism and promote international law.

41. The international community must ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism did not impede efforts to assist victims of armed conflict and other activities undertaken in accordance with international humanitarian law. Switzerland therefore continued to support the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, provided that such a convention would explicitly and effectively guarantee respect for international humanitarian law.

42. Switzerland believed in the key role that the United Nations played in combating terrorism and supported the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the efforts of that Office to ensure a harmonized and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. Switzerland, in its role as co-Chair of the Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, placed particular emphasis on the gathering, sharing and use of evidence, administrative measures, juvenile justice and the role of women. Switzerland was convinced that the international community needed to work together to eradicate the scourge of terrorism and called on the Member States to coordinate their efforts and learn to trust one another in that regard.

43. **Mr. Arrocha Olabuenaga** (Mexico) said that the terrorist threat was not an abstraction but a tragic daily reality in many countries and communities. One of the greatest challenges facing the international community was keeping pace with the constantly evolving methods used by terrorist groups, which had become adept at disseminating their radical ideologies using social medial networks and the Internet. Through those propaganda platforms, they spread ideologies that fuelled extremism, violence and intolerance alarmingly and directly to the most vulnerable groups, namely young people and women. That made it all the more necessary to focus counter-terrorism measures on addressing the underlying causes of the spread of terrorism, including social factors such as discrimination, frustration and exclusion, which terrorists used as arguments to recruit new members.

44. Victims of terrorism should always be treated with dignity and respect and assured access to justice; they could also play a key role in countering extremist narratives and hate speech.

45. His Government supported the position of the Secretary-General that States should strengthen, enhance and promote the effective use of the different counter-terrorism instruments and measures. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was particularly valuable in that regard, especially through its emphasis on prevention, development and inclusion. Mexico stood ready to work with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to implement the Strategy. His Government also valued the good practices shared as part of the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and the emphasis that the participants had placed on the importance of linkages between the work of the United Nations and national counter-terrorism efforts for ensuring transparency and efficiency and avoiding duplication of effort.

46. Nonetheless, a number of institutional challenges stood in the way of effective counter-terrorism efforts, foremost among them being the finalization and adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The legal harmonization of counter-terrorism measures with respect for international humanitarian law was more pressing and necessary than ever before. Access to humanitarian assistance should never be denied in the fight against terrorism. The Security Council had a key role to play in that regard. Mexico would continue to work to strengthen multilateral counter-terrorism strategies, with due regard for international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

47. His Government, like those of the other States members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, was concerned that the frequent invocation of Article 51 of the Charter as a justification for taking military action against terrorist groups could lead to a de facto increase in exceptions to the general prohibition of the use of force established in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter. His delegation therefore called for thorough consideration of that matter by the Member States.

48. Mexico strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and wished to express its solidarity with Governments and families that had been victims of terrorist attacks. The fundamental, long-term solution to the challenges posed by terrorism and violent extremism was social in nature, through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inclusion, education, opportunities for young people, respect for diversity, democracy and social cohesion. Hate speech, racism and exclusion could only exacerbate the problem. Governments must not entertain such ideas, much less policies that only spread the very things that they were clumsily trying to prevent.

49. **Ms. Tan** (Brunei Darussalam) said that globalization and modern information and communications technologies had enabled terrorists to diversify their methods, turning terrorism into an omnipresent threat to international peace and security that knew no borders. In addition to using traditional weapons of war, terrorists also employed everyday items and dual-use goods, such as fertilizers, to spread fear and destruction. Brunei Darussalam condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and believed that it should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

50. Her Government was a party to a number of international instruments and had put in place domestic laws to limit access to the tools of terrorism and to ensure that perpetrators of terror were brought to justice. The Anti-Terrorism Order gave effect to the country's international obligations and provided for the confiscation of assets belonging to terrorists or their organizations. The Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam had been established to implement the Anti-Terrorism Regulation of 2013 in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions. Convinced that counter-terrorism should not be the sole responsibility of security, law enforcement and intelligence agencies, and that the public played an important role in ensuring safety and security, her Government had adopted a whole-of-nation approach to countering terrorism. Religious and community leaders often engaged in dialogue with young people to ensure that religious teachings were not being distorted.

51. Brunei Darussalam valued the workshops and training courses organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to build the counter-terrorism capacities of Member States. Events such as the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States provided opportunities for sharing best practices and engaging with counterparts from other States. The biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy buttressed the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations and provided an occasion to identify ways in which it could be improved. Brunei Darussalam also welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), which focused on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters.

52. As terrorism tactics evolved, States not only needed to adapt their strategies and laws accordingly but also to share best practices and formulate new practical and efficient measures to neutralize the threat that terrorism posed to their peace and security. The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Order, adopted in 2005, allowed her Government to render assistance even in the absence of any formal agreement or treaty, while the Extradition Order, adopted in 2006, had facilitated the extradition of persons to and from Brunei Darussalam. At the regional level, Brunei Darussalam was working closely with other members of ASEAN in a variety of forums to exchange information, share best practices and identify focal points to facilitate cooperation.

53. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that, although the international community had achieved some progress in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, new challenges had emerged as terrorists increasingly used social media platforms, encrypted communications and the dark web to recruit new followers and to plan, finance and coordinate attacks, making detection and prevention ever more difficult. Mongolia strongly believed that international cooperation and collaboration were the only means of combating terrorism effectively and that the United Nations played a central role in the coordination of counter-terrorism efforts and the provision of technical assistance. His Government was fully committed to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and supported the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

54. Mongolia welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to provide strategic leadership to global counter-terrorism efforts. It had ratified 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and had launched a national plan of action for preventing and combating terrorism for the period 2017 to 2020, which was already being implemented. His Government had also recently signed the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism and would be hosting a capacity-building workshop on countering terrorist financing, organized together with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, to strengthen the capacities of the country's law enforcement agencies and share best practices in combating terrorism.

55. **Ms. Yvard** (Thailand) said her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and that all acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable. Terrorism caused senseless loss and suffering and was a manifestation of a complete disregard for human life that weighed on the collective conscience of the international community. Her Government's anti-terrorism strategy for the period 2017 to 2021 focused on the prevention of, response to and recovery from terrorist acts. Thailand remained committed to the implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism and would continue

to strengthen its cooperation with other States members of ASEAN in that regard.

56. In recognition of the crucial importance of strong international legal frameworks for the effective suppression of terrorism, Thailand was a party to nine the international counter-terrorism instruments and was in the process of becoming a party to the remaining ten instruments. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy also needed to be translated into action. In that connection, her delegation hoped that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would be concluded in a timely manner and looked forward to taking part in the deliberations of the working group established with a view to finalizing the draft convention.

57. Thailand welcomed the convening of the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and the launch of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism. Thailand supported the capacity-building efforts of United Nations agencies to assist Member States in preventing, addressing and combating terrorism effectively, and had hosted a number of national and regional workshops on related topics.

58. In addition to cutting the illicit flows of financial and other resources supporting terrorist groups, States needed to redouble their efforts to address terrorism at its root by halting the spread of hateful ideologies, addressing the conditions conducive to violent extremism and radicalization in all communities, reducing poverty and injustice and promoting social and economic inclusion and education for all, starting with young children.

59. *Mr. Luna (Brazil), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

60. **Ms. Fink** (United Kingdom) said that ISIL had evolved from a territorial entity into a diffuse and covert network. Al-Qaida and its affiliates remained a persistent challenge. Groups inspired by ISIL and Al-Qaida continued to pose a threat, as did extreme right-wing groups. The most recent counter-terrorism strategy of the United Kingdom, known as CONTEST, put forward a comprehensive response to all forms of terrorism and violent extremism, emphasizing the importance of whole-of-government and whole-of society approaches to both phenomena.

61. Her Government welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2396 (2017), which focused on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters. It was important for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to establish a global passenger name record standard and for Member States to develop the capacity to process such data. Her Government therefore welcomed the passenger name record capacity-building project led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and ICAO and urged Member States to support that effort. The global mission to raise aviation security standards must continue, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2309 (2016), to ensure a shared global understanding of the current threat to aviation, and allow all Member States to fully meet their aviation security obligations and move towards implementing the Global Aviation Security Plan of ICAO.

62. Member States should retain their focus on tackling terrorists' use of the Internet, including by working through the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, particularly in support of smaller technology companies. The United Kingdom was cooperating with partners in the Forum to develop a policy toolkit on the Zurich-London Recommendations on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism Online, which would ensure that terrorist content was removed more swiftly and effectively.

63. Her Government welcomed the strengthened cooperation between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED, in addition to the Organization's increased engagement with the private sector, civil society, experts and researchers. Human rights and the integration of gender considerations were also vital for credible, effective and sustainable measures to combat and prevent terrorism.

64. **Ms. Bavdaž Kuret** (Slovenia) said that the threats of violent extremism and terrorism called for a multifaceted, comprehensive response encompassing an array of actions that were aligned with policies and addressed the root causes of terrorism. Such causes varied from country to country, requiring national responses to be adapted to the circumstances of the individual countries. In addition to strengthening the resilience of individuals, communities and societies to radicalism and extremism, Governments needed to empower young people, who were most susceptible to recruiters' messages, by giving them what they were seeking the most: a sense of belonging. Women also played a powerful positive role in the process of deradicalization and reintegration, especially in the case of returning foreign terrorist fighters.

65. Slovenia viewed regional cooperation, particularly in the Western Balkans region, where ISIL was seeking to establish logistical bases and to recruit new members, as the most effective means of combating terrorism. Her Government had proposed the Western Balkans

Counter-Terrorism initiative as part of the Integrative Internal Security Governance concept, both endorsed by the Council of the European Union, with a view to cooperating on security matters and preventing violent extremism, terrorism and serious and organized crime. It had also initiated an awareness-raising and capacity-building project for practitioners dealing with radicalization issues in the Western Balkans region, aimed at improving the exchange of intelligence, introducing uniform international standards for the investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences, and ensuring the secure and lawful exchange of personal data.

66. She reiterated her Government's support for the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which had achieved significant results during its first year in existence, among them the convening of the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States. Although Slovenia supported the efforts of the working group established with a view to finalizing a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, it saw no need to convene an intergovernmental conference on the subject so long as the text of the draft convention had not been agreed. It was more important to ensure that the existing counter-terrorism instruments were fully implemented.

67. Slovenia supported the work of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. She also reiterated her Government's support for the Office of the Ombudsperson to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and welcomed the appointment of the new Ombudsperson.

68. **Mr. Bukoree** (Mauritius) said that his country was fully committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and consistently, unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever and for whatever purpose it was perpetrated. His Government had taken a range of preventive measures at the domestic level to combat terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Unit under the Office of the Prime Minister was now being restructured; its technology was being improved, and its staff numbers were being increased from 4 to 29. Its functions were to collect, collate and analyse terrorism-related intelligence, share that intelligence with the investigating authorities, educate the public and foster public support with a view to combating terrorism and preventing radicalization.

69. The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002 had been amended in December 2016 to strengthen the authorities' ability to arrest, monitor, investigate and prosecute returning foreign terrorist fighters. The criteria for designation as a terrorist organization had been broadened to include groups that encouraged terrorist acts. The Government had taken strict measures to prevent suspicious transactions and ensure that Mauritius was not used as a platform for the financing of terrorism. As a founding member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money-Laundering Group, Mauritius had endorsed the 40 recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force and was committed to their implementation. The country's national counter-terrorism committee met on a quarterly basis to take stock of terrorism-related issues, ensure that preparedness plans were in place, review the applicable legislation and take or follow up critical actions. The authorities of Mauritius cooperated with their counterparts to exchange information, and the staff of the Counter-Terrorism Unit had attended several workshops organized by foreign counter-terrorism experts. In all those endeavours, Mauritius took care to uphold the human rights of every individual and stressed the importance of assisting victims of terrorism.

70. The Government was in the process of finalizing its first national counter-terrorism strategy, which was derived from the Southern Africa Development Community Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategy, itself based on the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was essential to build a global consensus, strengthen multilateral cooperation in combating terrorism and to examine why individuals were attracted to violent extremist groups. The best way to end violent extremism was to create open, equitable, inclusive and pluralist societies founded on full respect for human rights, with education and economic opportunities for all.

71. **Mr. Ávila** (Dominican Republic) said that his Government consistently condemned terrorism, wherever it was perpetrated, and was fully committed to implementing the necessary measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of terrorism. The Dominican Republic was a party to most global and regional counter-terrorism instruments, including those concerning the financing of terrorism. It had built bonds of cooperation to share information, knowledge and training with countries that had greater experience in combating terrorism, which enabled it to organize regular training programmes for staff of its national counter-terrorism centre and its armed forces. By Act

No. 267-08, the Government had established a national counter-terrorism committee and set out the penalties for perpetrators of terrorist acts. The authorities were currently carrying out risk assessments concerning the financing of terrorism. The Dominican Republic had taken part in projects coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the most recent of which was a training session on terrorism at international airports.

72. Terrorism posed a threat not only to peace and security, but also to social and economic development. It was therefore essential to ensure that counter-terrorism measures were consistent with the rule of law. His Government remained committed to strengthening cooperation mechanisms and measures, including the adoption of a comprehensive convention on the topic. The fight against international terrorism could be conducted only by strictly legitimate legal means that were in compliance with international human rights norms, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

73. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the United Nations had a central role to play in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts, as terrorist groups were taking advantage of porous borders and interconnected financial systems to extend their reach. The United Republic of Tanzania was committed to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and had taken a number of administrative and legislative measures to that end that were consistent with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It had enacted laws to prevent terrorism and money-laundering; established counter-terrorism units; introduced a community policing strategy for remote areas; and encouraged interfaith dialogue, which could also help to detect any emerging threats within communities. The country's Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance ensured that all counter-terrorism measures were consistent with human rights and the rule of law.

74. The United Republic of Tanzania was a party to nine international counter-terrorism instruments and one regional instrument. It engaged with other States to exchange information and experiences. His delegation stood ready to work with other delegations in order to reach consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

75. **Mr. Molefe** (South Africa) said that his country unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Although much had been done to combat terrorism by strengthening law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and extradition, it had become critically important to conclude a comprehensive convention on the topic. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the working group established with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention. He called on all delegations to show a constructive spirit and engage in compromise with a view to reaching an agreement on outstanding issues. For the convention to be effective, it should not conflate terrorism with peoples' legitimate aspiration for self-determination or with the struggle against colonial domination in a manner consistent with international law. Like other counter-terrorism initiatives, the draft comprehensive convention must contain provisions that protect human rights, particularly the right to life; the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of freedom, detained without trial, tortured, or treated in a cruel, inhumane or degrading way; the right of access to courts; and the universally accepted rights of arrested, detained or accused persons. The human rights of victims of terrorism should also be recognized.

76. His delegation supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Such a conference could provide an opportunity to generate momentum to finalize the draft comprehensive convention. Lastly, it was important to promote capacity-building for developing countries, which were most vulnerable to terrorist attacks but least equipped to address them.

77. **Ms. Zeytinoğlu Özkan** (Turkey) said that Turkey strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and paid its respects to the memories of the victims of terrorism. It continued to combat terrorist organizations, notably the Fethullah terrorist organization, ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and several left-wing terrorist organizations. The PKK and PYD groups were attempting to exploit developments in Syria and Iraq; however, a terrorist organization could not be legitimized on the pretext that it was fighting another terrorist organization. ISIL no longer had a state-like hierarchical structure or the resources to lure tens of thousands of recruits from around the world, but it continued to pose a serious threat. Turkey had been actively engaged in stopping foreign terrorist fighters from travelling and cutting off their sources of financing. Another priority was securing the country's 1,000-kilometre border with Syria and Iraq. As at September 2018, its no-entry list included 68,600 individuals, and it had deported 6,800 persons in the context of measures against foreign terrorist fighters.

Genuine support and intelligence feedback from partners would strengthen the impact of those measures.

78. Turkey had contributed to the work of such organizations as the United Nations, the Financial Action Task Force, Eurojust, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the European Committee on Crime Problems and the Committee of Experts on Terrorism of the Council of Europe. Turkey was an active member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and, along with Kuwait and the Netherlands, was co-chairing the Coalition's working group on foreign terrorist fighters. Over the years, Turkey had concluded bilateral agreements that provided the legal basis for cooperation against terrorism with more than 90 countries.

79. The international community must act with equal determination against all terrorist organizations: a selective approach was unacceptable. However, members of terrorist organizations, including those targeting Turkey, had been allowed to abuse the right to asylum in certain countries in order to circumvent justice. Effective fulfilment of the universal obligation to extradite or prosecute was crucial for a collective response to terrorism. It was also important to uphold human rights while countering terrorism and to address the root causes of terrorism by preventing violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations.

80. Turkey was a party to most of the United Nations conventions and protocols on terrorism. It attached great importance to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across all its four pillars, had actively participated in consultations as part of the sixth periodic review of the Strategy, and contributed actively to the efforts of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. It appreciated the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the convening of the High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, which had helped to build new partnerships in the fight against terrorism. Her delegation hoped that progress would be achieved in the negotiations aimed at formulating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

81. **Mr. Hitti** (Lebanon) said that terrorism could be prevented and combated only through a comprehensive approach. Lebanon condemned terrorism in the strongest terms and remained committed to its international obligations in that regard, including under the international instruments to which it was a party, the relevant Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Lebanon was one of the signatories of the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, which could play a valuable part in bolstering collective action to eradicate terrorist acts.

82. Lebanese forces had defeated ISIL on Lebanese territory and dismantled terrorist cells. The country had also made significant progress towards preventing the financing of terrorism. In 2018, the Government had adopted a national strategy for the prevention of violent extremism, with a particular focus on youth.

83. The word "terrorism" had unfortunately come to be used loosely and exploited for such purposes as spreading hatred against a given religion. However, the roots of terrorist acts did not lie in religions, ethnic groups or nationalities. Terrorism could not be equated with the right to resist foreign occupation. Such a step misrepresented international law and sought to undermine the basic rights of people struggling for their independence.

84. In order to address the roots of terrorist ideology, it was essential to tackle poverty, exclusion, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, oppression and the denial of basic rights. While it would be simplistic to assume that terrorist ideology grew systemically out of social or economic despair, addressing those drivers would help to stem the problem. Indeed, when the item had first been added to the agenda of the Committee, its title had been "Measures to prevent international terrorism which endangers or takes innocent human lives or jeopardizes fundamental freedoms and study of the underlying causes of those forms of terrorism and acts of violence which lie in misery, frustration, grievance and despair and which cause some people to sacrifice human lives, including their own, in an attempt to effect radical changes".

85. His delegation commended the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcomed the convening of the first High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States.

86. **Ms. Syrota** (Ukraine) said that in recent decades, the threat posed by terrorist groups such as ISIL, Al-Qaida, the Taliban, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab had become global. Terrorist attacks around the world were causing death, injury and displacement and spreading fear in societies. The tactics of terrorists were becoming more sophisticated, and their mentors and sponsors were becoming crueller and more ambitious. In 2016, a total of 25,673 persons from 106 countries had died as a result of terrorist attacks.

87. Resolute commitment and action from the entire international community were required to tackle the threats posed by international terrorism and violent extremism. In that connection, a number of important

steps had been taken over the past year to consolidate the international response to those threats, including measures relating to terrorist financing, the supply of weapons to terrorists, returning foreign terrorist fighters, terrorist propaganda, the protection of critical infrastructure, aviation security and coordination and coherence among United Nations entities. General Assembly resolution 72/284, adopted following the sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, could serve as a road map for strengthening joint counter-terrorism efforts and addressing the root causes of terrorism and the conditions conducive to its spread.

88. Ukraine welcomed the diplomatic and military efforts of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and would continue to participate in those activities. Ukraine had already identified six ISIL transnational logistics networks that had been recruiting, training, financing and transporting fighters; it had also dismantled 23 transfer points used for the temporary accommodation of foreign terrorist fighters and detained 60 members and supporters of ISIL. It stood ready to provide logistical support for military operations against the group.

89. Terrorism and violent extremism continued to threaten human rights, the rule of law, democracy, equality and freedom. Member States should do more to address the governance deficit, promote social development and respect of the rule of law, develop strategic communications strategies, counter terrorist ideology, and engage civil society, women and young people in counter-terrorism efforts. The United Nations system could support States by providing assistance in tackling the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, curbing the supply of funds and weapons to terrorists, promoting respect for human rights and the rule of law in counter-terrorism efforts and enhancing international judicial cooperation to prevent impunity.

90. Ukraine, a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 72/165, concerning the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, continued to stand in solidarity with victims of terrorism. All perpetrators, organizers, mentors and sponsors of acts of terrorism must be brought to justice.

91. Terrorism and violent extremism continued to threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Nearly 10 years had passed since the Russian Federation had launched its hybrid aggression against Ukraine, thereby violating many of its fundamental obligations under international law, including the obligations to refrain from providing any form of support to terrorists, to eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists, to suppress the recruitment and movement of foreign terrorist fighters and to prohibit terrorist incitement.

92. The increase in State-sponsored terrorism throughout the world was detrimental to global counter-terrorism efforts. The need to hold to account not only individuals and organizations but also States responsible for organizing, encouraging, providing training or otherwise directly or indirectly supporting terrorist activities should be duly reflected in the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would be an important addition to the existing international legal counter-terrorism framework.

93. The absence of a strong and unified response to crimes would ultimately result in the irreparable destruction of the rules-based world order. The international community must therefore defend international law to ensure that the perpetrators of each and every violation of fundamental norms and principles were held to account.

94. **Ms. Weiss Ma'udi** (Israel) said that the State of Israel faced daily threats from various terrorist groups and actors using a variety of tactics and methods that challenged law-abiding nations, including the notorious and ubiquitous practice of employing human shields from behind which they stockpiled weapons and perpetrated heinous terrorist acts. Terrorists also regularly hid amongst civilians to launch attacks against other civilians, thereby committing two war crimes at the same time: endangering the lives of civilians and targeting civilians. Too often, however, the international community focused not on terrorists' human-shield tactics, but on the response of the State threatened by those terrorists. When human shields lost their lives or were harmed and injured, the international community should focus first on the actions and methodologies of the terrorists and place the blame squarely on their shoulders, rather than point an accusatory finger at the State grappling with that despicable tactic. Fortunately, the international community had come together and condemned that abhorrent practice during the sixth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. While that condemnation was commendable and noteworthy, it was only a first step.

95. Her Government, on the other hand, was seeking legal tools to combat terrorism effectively while honouring its domestic and international obligations and upholding the principles of the rule of law and the value of life, despite having to deal with an enemy that had no regard for such obligations. In 2016 her Government had adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism law that included precise definitions of terrorist acts, criminalized

the provision of support for terrorists and terrorist acts, and provided for enhanced due process protections.

96. Israel had also made great strides towards combating the financing of terrorism, which was a serious transnational and global challenge. In 2016 Israel had gained observer status in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and was in the process of becoming a full member. Her Government was eager to exchange views and best practices and collaborate with other States on specific cases. The international community should employ more advanced methodologies and tools to combat terrorist financing, taking into account the various means used by terrorists to raise funds. For example, funds intended for social services or charitable purposes were sometimes transferred to organizations that used them to support terrorist activities. In some cases, Governments even provided monetary awards or stipends for terrorists or their families, thereby providing both the means and the incentive to carry out attacks. States must continuously review their counter-terrorism legislation and criteria for providing foreign and humanitarian assistance, to ensure that they were not inadvertently facilitating terrorist financing. Israel had participated in the International Conference on Combating the Financing of Daesh and Al-Qaeda in April 2018 and was ready to participate in other forums in the future.

97. Another major threat was the use of the Internet, including social media, for the purposes of incitement to terrorism, dissemination of hate speech, glorification of terrorism and recruitment of terrorists. It was essential to develop tools to prevent and provide protection against incitement while safeguarding the right to freedom of expression.

98. Civil society had an important role to play in the essential task of supporting and promoting resilience among victims of terrorism and their families and communities. Israel was committed to sharing its experience, best practices and expertise in that regard.

99. Israel recognized the importance of international cooperation and the role of the United Nations in the fight against global terrorism. It was an active participant in global counter-terrorism efforts and was a party to the core international counter-terrorism conventions and instruments. It had also supported the sixth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Her Government also recognized the need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would enshrine a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism and would not admit any justification for any form or manifestation of terrorism. It was unfortunate that certain delegations had advocated an alternative approach that would excuse or support terrorism in certain situations.

100. The annual Sixth Committee session should be a springboard for action at the national and international levels to develop and promote legal tools and remedies that would make a meaningful contribution to combating terrorism by lawful means. Law should not be confused with politics, as often occurred in the context of counter-terrorism. It was important to avoid the selective application of legal principles, and terrorist acts must never be misrepresented for political reasons.

101. **Ms. Pierce** (United States of America) said that all terrorist acts, by whomever committed, were criminal, inhumane and unjustifiable, regardless of motivation. Her delegation reiterated its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its commitment to the fight to end it, including by participating in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. Joint international efforts were needed to prevent such heinous acts, and in that regard, the United Nations had a critical role to play in mobilizing the international community, building capacity and facilitating technical assistance to Member States in implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and relevant resolutions.

102. The four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy were as relevant as ever, and the biennial General Assembly resolution on the review of the Strategy had given the Secretariat the guidance it needed to help Member States implement the Strategy, despite containing several serious flaws that her delegation hoped would be rectified in future resolutions. Through its unanimous adoption of resolution 2396 (2017), the Security Council had made a significant contribution to the global counter-terrorism framework by creating new international obligations and highlighting actions that were needed to strengthen border security and information sharing, enhance judicial measures and international cooperation, ensure the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration, as appropriate, of foreign terrorist fighters and their family members, strengthen the protection of public spaces and soft targets and prevent terrorists from traveling between countries. The new obligations concerning passenger name record data, advanced passenger information, biometrics and watchlists contained in the resolution were all vital counter-terrorism tools.

103. As part of the international effort to combat ISIL operations outside Iraq and Syria, Member States must also make themselves less susceptible to the threat of terrorism by pursuing the goal of elevating aviation security standards globally set out in Security Council

resolution 2309 (2016), including by countering insider threats and deploying next-generation technologies. A number of Security Council resolutions adopted over the past year underscored the counter-terrorism role of all elements of government, including ministries of finance, justice, the interior and information and communications.

104. Results were being achieved. The implementation by Member States of resolution 2178 (2014), concerning foreign terrorist fighters, combined with intense military pressure from the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, had made a tremendous impact on the ground in Syria and Iraq, where ISIL had lost 99 per cent of the territory it once held. Her Government had information-sharing arrangements with almost 70 international partners to help identify, track and deter known and suspected terrorists. All Member States could learn from each other's experiences, but much more needed to be done to fully implement Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017).

105. Her delegation firmly supported the efforts of the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other multilateral bodies, civil society and non-governmental organizations aimed at developing practical tools to further the United Nations counter-terrorism framework. Continued coordination was needed among the various United Nations entities and external partners such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum and its related initiatives and platforms, which advanced the practical implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy through training, capacity-building and grant-making efforts for community-based projects to prevent and counter violent extremism. In that connection, her delegation welcomed the close cooperation and partnership between the United Nations and the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

106. Her delegation welcomed the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism and called for close coordination between the Office and CTED. It also welcomed the joint report submitted by the two entities, pursuant to resolution 2395 (2017), setting out ways to improve coordination between them in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building. The Office and CTED must also pursue an approach to implementing the Global Strategy and the recommendations of the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism in which the importance of respecting human rights and the rule of law was recognized. Counter-terrorism efforts that came at the expense of human rights and the rule of law were counterproductive and often bolstered terrorist narratives.

107. Domestically, the United States was continuing to raise community awareness of violent extremism, radicalization and recruitment dynamics and to provide community leaders with tools and resources to work on prevention efforts. One continuing area of work was state and local intervention services for individuals headed down a path toward violent extremism or radicalization before a crime was committed.

108. It was important to counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes while also respecting the right to freedom of expression and recognizing that the Internet was just one of many tools used by terrorists. The United States was taking law enforcement action against criminal activities online and had also worked to strengthen and expand its voluntary collaboration and partnerships with private technology companies. Her delegation commended the efforts of the industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism and the Tech Against Terrorism initiative. Member States must seek to build long-term resilience to terrorist messages by collaborating with youth to cultivate critical thinking skills and online public safety awareness in communities. The United States, recognizing that the problem could not be solved by Governments and private companies alone, was also seeking to involve civil society, academia and community leaders in the development of a long-term comprehensive solution.

109. All Member States should provide the United Nations system actors and other relevant stakeholders with sufficient resources to deliver required technical assistance and generate more effective solutions. In that regard, her Government continued to make voluntary contributions to the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute for the development of research, assistance and training. It encouraged other Member States to share the burden of helping the United Nations improve its own work and provide technical and capacity-building assistance across a range of issues addressed by the Global Strategy, including preventing and countering violent extremism, and implementing relevant Security Council resolutions, such as resolution 2396 (2017).

110. While the international community had made significant progress in developing a robust legal counter-terrorism regime, much remained to be done. The existing international counter-terrorism instruments would be effective only if they were widely ratified and implemented. She drew particular attention to the six instruments concluded since 2005 on such issues as the

suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, the physical protection of nuclear material and the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of maritime navigation, unlawful acts relating to international civil aviation and unlawful seizure of aircraft.

111. Her delegation remained willing to work with other States to build on and enhance the international counter-terrorism framework and would listen carefully to the statements of other delegations concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The United Nations must send united and unambiguous signals with regard to terrorism.

112. **Mr. Kim** In Chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that terrorism, which had spread across the world in recent years, had a similar impact to war in that it undermined regional stability, claimed human lives and caused significant displacement. The current refugee crisis highlighted the gravity of the effects of terrorism. The number of forcibly displaced persons around the world had reached 68.5 million in 2017, and refugees from conflict areas in the Middle East and North Africa continued to risk their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Terrorism was taking a huge toll on the world, and the international community had made no noticeable progress towards eliminating it. It was unclear whether the United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States would produce any tangible results.

113. The current situation was primarily attributable to successive armed attacks against disobedient countries and the illegal and outrageous crime of overthrowing other States' Governments perpetrated by one permanent member of the Security Council under the pretext of protecting freedom and democracy and countering terrorism. Military aggression and politically motivated terrorist acts had triggered a vicious cycle of terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya and led to the emergence of ISIL. The continuing failure of the international community to eliminate terrorism despite international efforts and cooperation was due to the exploitation by one country of the issue of counter-terrorism for its own selfish, political and military purposes. The act of overthrowing a State's Government under the guise of counter-terrorism amounted to State-sponsored terrorism and should not be tolerated. Such actions ran counter to the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States and non-interference in their internal affairs and were thus flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The country that was committing such State-sponsored terrorism would soon reveal itself as the true ringleader of terrorism and would not be able to avoid denunciation, rejection and isolation by the international community.

114. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea supported and stood in solidarity with the Government and people of Syria in their efforts to protect the security and territorial integrity of their country. It also condemned in the strongest terms the drone attack carried out in an attempt to assassinate the President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in August 2018. His country extended its full support to the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in its efforts to investigate that terrorist act and to bring the perpetrators and their accomplices to justice.

115. His Government rejected the attempt by the Government of the United States to tarnish the international image of his country by designating it as a State sponsor of terrorism. That act was simply a reflection of the desire of the United States to put pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by ramping up sanctions against it. His Government would continue to work to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the world.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.